

H.R. 6 will help America to innovate its way out of our entitlement crisis. The regulatory reforms included in H.R. 6 will accelerate the pace of discovery, development and delivery of new treatments and cures, thereby providing significant health care savings to the federal budget that will only grow over time.

By modernizing clinical trials, eliminating duplicative administrative requirements, and perhaps most importantly, making FDA less bureaucratic by advancing the voice and needs of patients in the drug and device approval process—H.R. 6 will make lasting, positive changes to the entire ecosystem of Cures. Over 250 patient groups have enthusiastically said “yes” and endorsed Cures.

I urge all of my colleagues to think of the patients and vote “AYE” in support of H.R. 6.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chair, America has been at her best when facing great challenges.

Some of our greatest challenges today are in the area of healthcare.

With over 10,000 known diseases, only 500 have cures.

We need to embrace a national vision of improving lives, and of course, saving money, through a Cures Strategy.

Sepsis is one condition that will benefit from this legislation.

Sepsis is the body's response to an overwhelming infection.

Approximately 250,000 people die from sepsis every year in the U.S. and yet most people have never heard of it.

Sepsis is the #1 most expensive condition treated in U.S. hospitals and in FY11 the aggregate hospital cost for sepsis was more than \$20 billion.

This legislation comes too late for Katie McQuestion and Rory Staunton, both who succumbed to sepsis as vibrant, health young people.

But through the work that the CURES legislation will support, we can find ways to identify sepsis earlier and even find ways to prevent sepsis.

The 21st Century Cures legislation includes language that I have authored with my friend from Texas, Rep. GENE GREEN—the SOFTWARE act.

Getting bureaucracy out of the way and allowing innovation is the goal of SOFTWARE.

SOFTWARE will codify the manner in which FDA approaches health IT—including the wonderful apps that we all use to keep us healthy.

FDA is the agency charged with assuring the safety and efficacy of drugs and medical devices.

But data is not a drug or device and it makes no sense to regulate it as such.

However obvious that is, it hasn't stopped FDA from trying to make medical device law fit health IT.

We need to modernize the FDA authorities to reflect the new technology that is health IT. SOFTWARE, as included in 21st Century Cures is an important first step in our efforts to modernize the FDA.

It is common sense legislation to provide opportunity for health IT to deliver on the promise of better health for all Americans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to bolster these efforts as SOFTWARE moves through the Senate.

For all the reasons I've outlined, the 21st Century Cures legislation is an important bill. But we must ensure that the new treatments, devices and drugs that will be created as a result of this legislation get to the people that need it the most. And some of the most needy are our nations seniors who get health care through Medicare.

Today, Medicare struggles with the adaption of new technology. Many seniors go years without access to the latest treatment options. We must change that. Congress receives great support from the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) who offers recommendations and policy support to Congress to improve Medicare.

But as we are on the cusp of changing how health care is delivered, MedPAC could use additional policy support including Commissioners that have real-world expertise in this area, and who understand the changes that need to be made in both Medicare payment and regulatory policies to make that happen. I've been pleased to support such candidates in the past, and will continue to do so in the future.

RECOGNIZING FRED DEHARO FOR HIS POSITIVE IMPACT ON IMPROVING HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PRESIDENTS OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary contributions Fred Deharo has made to the health and wellbeing of residents in the Coachella Valley, making a real difference in the lives of the people I serve.

There is a dire need for quality health education and health care in the Coachella Valley. As an Emergency Physician myself, I know how critical it is for this population to have access to health care and education, and have seen first-hand the impact of Mr. Deharo's work.

For the last 35 years, Mr. Deharo has dedicated his life to expanding and improving public health. Upon graduating from UCLA with a Masters of Arts in Health Education-School of Public Health, Mr. Deharo was hired by “El Progreso Del Desierto,” a farm worker health clinic in Coachella, to run their health education program, and eventually became their Executive Director.

Mr. Deharo's genuine passion for our country's medically underserved populations steered him toward his next professional endeavor. In 1993, he began consulting and grant writing, and was instrumental in the opening of the health clinic “Clinicas Del

Pueblo” in Mecca, CA. Mecca, primarily a farming community, lacks access to basic health care and health education facilities.

Continuing with his service to underserved communities of Southern California, Mr. Deharo returned to the Coachella Valley in 1998 and in collaboration with another passionate health advocate, Rosa Lucas, they contributed to the opening of another clinic “Santa Rosa Del Valle” in Coachella, CA. Currently Mr. Deharo is Chief Contracts Officer for Borrego Community Health Foundation. And soon will be the Director of Contracting and Business Development for Clinicas Del Camino Real, Inc. in Ventura County, Ca.

Mr. Deharo recognizes the urgent needs that medically underserved communities struggle with on a daily basis. As a resident of the Coachella Valley, and as a Doctor, I thank Mr. Deharo for his life's work to provide better healthcare access to the rural and underserved communities of the Coachella Valley.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of families and children who have access to a Doctor through the health clinics that Mr. Deharo helped make possible, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to Mr. Deharo, and look forward to continuing to support his legacy.

CONGRATULATING TIMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Timberland High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Timberland High School for a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL SCOTT B. AVERY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Colonel Scott B. Avery, Commander of Martin Army Community Hospital, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. Colonel Avery was instrumental in the partnership between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Martin Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia to greatly improve the healthcare services provided by the VA in the Columbus, Georgia area. On Tuesday, July 14, 2015, Colonel Avery relinquished Command of Martin Army Community Hospital to Colonel Marie A. Dominguez.

Colonel Avery was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps Officer in the U.S. Army